

The Invasion of Italy

75

chief. Eutropius does him no more than justice when he describes him as a man of high principle and a consummate general.* Aurelius Victor fills in the light and shade. Galerius was, he says, a Prince worthy of all praise ; just if unpolished and untutored ; of handsome presence; and an accomplished and fortunate general He had risen from the ranks; in his young days he had been a herd boy, and the name of Armentarius clung to him through life. This rough and ready Pannonian spent too energetic and busy a career to have time for culture. He came from a province where, in the forceful phrase of one of the Panegyrists, " life was all hard knocks and fighting." f

Galerius had already nominated Licinius as his successor, but Licinius was far away in Pannonia and did not cross over at once into Asia to take command of Galerius's army—no doubt because it was not safe for him to leave his post. In the meantime, Maximin Daza, the Augustus of Syria and Egypt, had been preparing to march on Nicomedia as soon as Galerius breathed his last, for he claimed, as we have seen, that by seniority of rule he had a better right than Licinius to the title of senior Augustus. While, therefore, Licinius remained in Europe, Maximin Daza advanced from Syria across the Taurus and entered Bithynia, where, to curry favour with the people, he abolished the census. It was expected that the two Emperors

* Vir et probe moratus et egregius re
military f /// quibus omnis vita milita
est.